

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Statewide Beginning Farmer

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Statewide Beginning Farmer		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:		Telephone:
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Location; Answer all that apply	
1. Based upon GIS data, are one or more land units in this EQIP application located in a surface water source protection area (SW SPA), or in a groundwater source protection area (GW SPA), also referred to as a wellhead protection area, for a public drinking water supply?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Will this EQIP application correct deficiencies in agricultural waste or water quality oriented land management practice associated with one or more land units located in a watershed containing an agriculturally impaired or stressed segment of water identified by the State of Vermont?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
CNMP Implementation - Answer yes to either 3, 4, or 5	
3. Is the CNMP completed?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Is only the MWWHP and LTP completed?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Is only the NMP and/or LTP completed?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Significant Contributor	
6. Will the implementation of any of the practices within the application allow the producer, regardless of the size of the operation, to address a significant contribution of pollutants to waters of the US or is the applicant required to address a problem to stay in compliance with Vermont state water quality regulations?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Agricultural Waste Management	
7. Does the application include a structural waste management practice where a system does not already exist on the farm and where water quality concerns need to be addressed?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health	
8. Does this application include land management practices that will reduce soil erosion by at least 2 tons per acre and to ‘T’ or less on cropland fields of 8% or greater slope?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. Will this application include practices and/or management changes that will provide benefits to soil quality where a documented soil quality resource concern exists or where needed based on a soil health assessment?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Quality	
10. Will this application include practices and/or management changes that will provide benefits to water quality?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Pasture Management	
11. Will the applicant convert an existing livestock confinement operation (pasture is not utilized or is substantially underutilized) to a grass/pasture-based operation and a minimum of 50% of current annual or rotated cropland operated by the applicant is converted to permanent vegetation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

12. Will all pastures where livestock have access to perennial or intermittent streams be treated (livestock will be excluded from surface waters or access will be managed)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Irrigation Management	
13. Does this application include at least one practice to assist the participant in converting to drip irrigation on 50% or more of their existing irrigated land?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Forest Management. ANSWER YES TO 14 OR 15 BUT NOT BOTH.	
14. Does this application include at least one practice that will reduce soil erosion and result in an improvement in water quality of streams, water bodies, or wetlands?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
15. Does this application include at least one practice that will reduce only soil erosion on forest land?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Wildlife Management	
16. Does this application include a practice that will result in an improvement to wildlife habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Seasonal High Tunnel	
17. Does this application include a high tunnel?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Answer all that apply	
1. Does the application meet the definition of a significant contributor, and will practices be installed to address the significant contribution?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Will the application result in a reduction of nutrient and sediment transport off of agricultural fields and into surface waters?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Will the application address water quality resource concerns on forestland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Will the application address resource concerns on the farmstead?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
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Ranking Score

Efficiency: Local Issues: State Issues: National Issues: Final Ranking Score:
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This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative: Signature Date:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy: Signature Date:
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